

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 RSR-01 /117 W

----- 128548

R 030925Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7058

USMISSION USUN

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 8850

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RP

SUBJECT: NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE

REF: (A) STATE 151600

(B) MANILA 8256

BEGIN SUMMARY: GOP NOT A MEMBER OF NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE GROUP AND HAS ONLY SENT OBSERVER OCCASIONALLY IN THE PAST. ACCORDING DFA SOURCE, BECAUSE OF DESIRE BUILD BETTER, MORE ACTIVE RELATIONS WITH MUSLIM NATIONS, IN LIGHT OF CONTINUING SERIOUS PROBLEM OF MUSLIM INSURGENCY IN SOUTH, CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN BY GOP TO SOME FORM OF PARTICIPATION THIS YEAR. COMMENT: THIS REFLECTS GOP CONCERN WITH LACK OF PROGRESS IN DEALING WITH MUSLIM INSURGENCY AND CONTINUING SEARCH FOR WAYS TO GET A HANDLE ON THIS SERIOUS PROBLEM. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING CALL ON MINISTER LETICIA SHAHANI (PROTECT
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SOURCE), DFA OFFICE UN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL

CONFERENCES, ON SEPARATE SUBJECT, EMBOFF INQUIRED AS TO NATURE, IF ANY, OF GOP RELATIONSHIP TO NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE (REF. A). SHAHANI SAID THAT, WHILE PHILIPPINES NOT A MEMBER OF THE GROUP, GOP HAD, ON OCCASION, SENT OBSERVER. THIS, HOWEVER, WAS NOT DONE LAST YEAR.

2. WITH RESPECT TO PARTICIPATION THIS YEAR, SHAHANI STATED THAT, WHILE THIS SUBJECT NORMALLY IN HER FIELD OF COMPETENCE, SHE WAS UNAWARE OF STATE OF PLAY BECAUSE POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OF SUBJECT CAUSING IT TO BE DEALT WITH AT HIGHER LEVELS. SHE DID STATE, HOWEVER, THAT ACTIVE CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO SOME FORM OF PARTICIPATION BECAUSE OF GOP DESIRE TO BUILD BETTER RELATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTS OF MUSLIM NATIONS.

3. WHILE SHAHANI INSISTED GOP DETERMINED TO CONTINUE TREAT MUSLIM INSURGENCY IN THE SOUTH AS PURELY DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEM, THEY NEVERTHELESS RECOGNIZED THAT IN SEEKING SOLUTION TO THAT PROBLEM, PHILIPPINES MUST UNDERSTAND AND DEAL WITH SOME OF REALITIES OF MUSLIM WORLD. *94 8, 5-,:3, GOP HAD LONG IGNORED FACT THAT MUSLIM LEADERS IN THE SOUTH HAD HAD DIRECT RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOVERNMENTS OF MUSLIM NATIONS.

4. SHAHANI, WHO FORMERLY SERVED LENGTHY TOUR WITH GOP UN MISSION, CHARACTERIZED GOP RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AS CORRECT AND FRIENDLY BUT, IN POLITICAL TERMS, QUITE DETACHED AND PRO FORMA. SHE REMARKED THAT THIS HAD NOT NECESSARILY ALWAYS SERVED GOP BEST INTERESTS AND THAT SHE FELT THE TIME HAD NOW COME TO "GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER BETTER." SHE SUGGESTED THAT UAR HAD BEEN HELPFUL ON GOP MUSLIM PROBLEMS IN THE PAST AND MIGHT CONTINUE TO BE SO IN THE FUTURE.

5. SHAHANI CONFIRMED WIRE SERVICE REPORTS THAT LONG-EXPECTED DELEGATION OF MUSLIM FOREIGN MINISTERS IS EXPECTED IN MANILA ON AUGUST 14 TO STUDY THE MUSLIM MINORITY PROBLEM IN THE PHILIPPINES. (AFP REPORT FROM KUALA LUMPUR, QUOTING TENGKU ABDUL RAHMAN, STATES SAUDI CONFIDENTIAL

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ARABIA, LIBYA, SOMALIA AND GUINEA WILL BE REPRESENTED.) SHAHANI REMARKED THAT SHE HOPED THE VISIT MIGHT PROVE TO BE MORE THAN PURE ORIENTATION FOR THE MUSLIM FOREIGN MINISTERS AND THAT IT WAS THE GOP'S INTENTION TO DISCUSS WAYS IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED COULD BE OF ASSISTANCE TO ONE ANOTHER.

6. COMMENT: RECENT REPORTING (REF.B) SUGGESTS THAT UNDER

PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WOULD BE MOST DIFFICULT
TO ACHIEVE A PURELY MILITARY SOLUTION TO MUSLIM INSURGENCY
PROBLEMS IN THE SOUTH. TO DATE, HOWEVER, LITTLE OR
NO PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE BY THE GOP IN CONTINUING ATTEMPTS
TO NEGOTIATE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION WITH REBEL LEADERS.
-\$\$8589,-))6, IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE DIPLOMATIC
EFFORTS TO ENGAGE MALAYSIA ARE NOT MOVING AHEAD. THUS,
2#8)3 ,95 74048 8,&, IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT THE GOP
APPEARS TO BE CASTING ABOUT FOR WAYS TO GET A HANDLE ON
THE PROBLEM WHICH THEY FEEL IS EXACERBATED BY POLITICAL
AND MATERIEL ASSISTANCE TO INSURGENTS FROM CERTAIN
MUSLIM GOVERNMENTS. TO THE EXTENT RELATIONS WITH
ARAB NATIONS ARE EXPANDED AND THEIR SUPPORT I KJ TUD
RE PHIL MUSLIM PROBLEM, WE MAY ALSO EXPECT SOME EFFECT
ON GOP ATTITUDES ON MATTERS ARAB INTEREST IN UN AND
ELSEWHERE.
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